

CFS 51 - ITEM X. Monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and on Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition

26 October, afternoon session (15:00 – 18:00)

Chairperson

I'll take the opportunity to transition smoothly to the next item on our agenda, Item X. Item X is on monitoring CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection for food security and nutrition. We made a decision a year ago that our follow up today would focus on the decisions made a few years ago, 10 years ago today. And that we would look at, given the importance of food security and nutrition, specifically the impact of food price volatility and social protection. And that that would be our focus, as we monitor these issues.

We have a follow-up report, which of course the Secretariat has conscientiously put together with the cooperation of Rome-based Agencies. And you have documents 51/inf/18 with the follow-up reports. You can also find this on the website. As I was saying, this was put together by the Secretariat with the view to providing a summary for this session. The aim of this event, as for all our global events, is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and to identify the strategies to stimulate cooperation at the global level and to promote policy coordination. Looking at lessons learned, and the impact of agreements made in previous years.

I have the honor of introducing – I don't really need to introduce him, but I'd like to all the same – introduce our special guest, Maximo Torrero, Chief Economist, and warmly greet our panelists for this segment, Mr. Seth Mayer, President of the Agricultural Market Information System, AMIS, Mr. Seth it's a real pleasure to have you with us today during CFS 51. Cooperation between AMIS and the CFS is of the utmost importance, as we have discussed recently. And the mandate of AMIS and CFS as per their agreements call for close cooperation. We must invite the head of AMIS to take part in our sessions, those of CFS, frequently. And that will be the case in the next months and years. And of course, the Chairperson of the Committee, the Ambassador of South Africa, will have the honor of taking part in the steering committee of AMIS. What's particularly important under the new MYPoW is the workstream on providing a monitoring platform that provides coordinated responses to crises and shocks and their impact on food security.

I would also like to introduce, it's a real honor to have Mr. Mohamed Béavogui, ex Secretary General of the UN and Director General of the African Risk Facility and ex-Prime Minister of Guinea. Thank you very much for accepting our invitation. Last, I would also like to warmly welcome Mr. David Kaatrud, Humanitarian and Development Program Director at WFP. Unfortunately, the other speaker, who was foreseen to partake in the panel, could not make it. Thank you very much, David, for joining us here.

Without further ado, Maximo, I will hand it over to you.

Dr. Máximo Torrero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Chair. We are starting 30 minutes late, I just wanted to put that on the record.

Colleagues, it's a real pleasure to be here today with all of you and the topic we'll be addressing is one of greatest importance, as the Chair said, price volatility and the social protection programs.

So let me switch to English, given that most of my speakers are English speakers. And I am very happy to bring up this panel because it's a topic that has been facing us, has been making more complex the agri-food systems in the last years, especially since the food crisis of 2007 to 8.

That was the reason why AMIS was created in 2011. So, what is the problem? The challenge is when you have volatility, and especially when you have excessive volatility, because volatility is not bad, it is common, something that the agricultural sector is used to. But excessive volatility is when things get

complicated, because these create a lot of distortions and complexities, especially for producers to be able to make decisions because they don't know what will be their prices on their markets, and they don't know what to do and what type of inputs to use to be able to respond to the demand that they are facing. So, when we have those periods, there are several mechanisms that we can use to help to cope with it, and one of the mechanisms is reduction of asymmetry of information, so reduction of the lack of information in the markets. And one of the lessons we learned in the previous food crisis was the fact that there was a huge gap of information, especially information on stocks, information on sub-supplies among the key exporting and key importing countries. And that's why Agricultural Market Information System was created.

But it's also important, because it affects the way we can operate, especially in situations of the most vulnerable. So how we can procure food or how we can provide cash in the cash transfers programs for them to be able to cope with potential situations where prices are too high or too volatile. And that's where they create this perfect link with social protection.

So, I'm lucky to have today three great panelists. First, Mr. Seth Meyer, Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System and Chief Economist of USDA. Then also, of course, David Katruud, Director of the Program of Humanitarian Development Division of the WFP, World Food Program, and His Excellency Mohamed Béavogui, former UN Assistant Secretary General and Director General African Risk Capacity, ARC.

Let us begin with you Seth. We are thrilled to have you here, and eager to hear from you about the key role of AMIS in food security and nutrition with a special focus on price volatility issues within the current context that we are facing today post-COVID-19. And with all the issues that we had in the war in Ukraine and the current conflicts that we are observing. Thank you.

Seth Meyer, Chair, Agricultural Market Information System

Alright, I will be, I will be quick. Thank you, Maximo, I appreciate you speaking in English, but I also appreciate you speaking in economist as you've been on your comment so. And as you heard, I'm USDA's Chief Economist, but I'm here as country chair. So, I'm here as the chair of the countries, which is one part of AMIS.

AMIS has several important parts that come together. So, I want to describe you a little bit its formation, I want to talk to you a little bit about what it has accomplished, and I want to talk to you a little bit about how it moves forward. And I want to do this in six and a half minutes to meet Maximo's guidelines.

So, you can look at CFS documents and you can, it points to the original origin or context of 2007-8, 2010-11, under which we saw AMIS formed. We can recall surging commodity prices, and with high volatility, that high volatility represents uncertainty, uncertainty in where the market is headed. The surges were, I could argue, exacerbated by policy choices made at that time as well too, policy choices made under uncertainty and from a lack of transparency. You're making a decision without full information. We observed some export controls, which constricted the flow of food, but that often just transfers that volatility into the global market, and to those who are least able to cope with it and are the most vulnerable. The policy responses, again intended to reduce risk, instead increase risks to those most vulnerable. In the vacuum of information and dialogue, these actions and reactions reinforced those price increases and volatility. They build on each other. Again, in a vacuum of information or dialogue, that lack of information, or as Maximo said asymmetric information, where some know but not all do, hampers the adjustment necessary, and can actually extend the shock or exacerbate those market shocks.

So, AMIS at its core was intended to increase market transparency and country dialogue, to moderate those outcomes and to shorten those outcomes and provide a context for good decision-making through improvements in market information and dialogue, which is harder to quantify. It supports better policy decisions for both exporting and importing countries. In response, AMIS is greater than the sum of its parts and fully driven by its country members and its other parts. It's expected that countries provide monthly market balances for key AMIS commodities.

In addition, the contributions of the international organizations in information on production, policy and trade cannot be understated. These organizations continue to expand their contributions to AMIS in those areas.

AMIS also meets quarterly to discuss key market events and meets twice a year for the information group to discuss detailed or focused market drivers and convenes annually the Rapid Response Forum to discuss current market conditions under prevailing policies.

AMIS also met in an extraordinary session with the outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine and can continue to provide analysis as the conflict continues in this most important region, which represents over 25% of global trade in wheat.

And this information flows back to capital. So, the international organizations, the country representatives, and the contributions from FAO come together to look at this information, and that information flows back to capital. During the last three years covid, conflict, adverse weather have intersected to destabilize markets in unusual ways and AMIS has stepped up to respond, but is not sitting by waiting for the next calamity to befall global markets. Countries, IOs and the AMIS Secretary, housed here at FAO, have expanded resources and evaluation of global fertilizer markets and global vegetable oil markets, including palm oil, both as a response to gaps in information we observed during the latest market disruptions. The IOs continue to expand contribution in global crop production, grain and oil seed flows and up-to-date policy monitoring.

AMIS is also evaluating additional indicators to signal areas of focus that may emerge. So again, looking forward to what will happen, we need to know as we observe, market dynamics change. Indicators are no substitute for country and IO participation, however, and the expertise that they bring, as any farmer will tell you, they can identify the individual years for each crop that they produce. Each marketing year is unique, and country information is crucial in order to evaluate the current situation.

AMIS is also evaluating the change in market dynamics, such as the increase in production in South America, demand in Asia and Africa, and is considering research and capacity that acknowledges this rise.

The expansion of AMIS to include the African Union through its G20 membership is critical in bolstering AMIS support in global food security, and we welcome that development. It's my observation that AMIS works best with strong country engagement, bringing their unique local information to the dialogue. It'd be disingenuous for me to say that each country has fully contributed its balance sheet each month and provided all the necessary information across time or across countries. Because each country has its own unique food security needs, clearly, but also has a role in regional and global food security. Each country's information is important in this process as a result, you know.

So, we use this opportunity, I will use this opportunity to renew a call for country engagement on the commitments to this initiative. And as a result, countries can work together to lessen the next inevitable shock to global food markets. It's important to reiterate here that food is different, and actions and information that help its flow is critical for global food security. Thank you, Max, thank you. Thank you very much.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

So, colleagues, it's clear that AMIS has a huge role on increasing transparency and reducing asymmetries of information. It's clear that AMIS and all the agri-food system is going to be facing significant increase in the number of shocks, risks and uncertainties that we will be facing and as a result of that, AMIS needs to be ready for that. And that's why AMIS is being expanded to fertilizers input markets, we learned that from the war in Ukraine and Russian Federation. But we also learn that we need to know more about logistics. And that is also another area, where AMIS is now having better information, and of course expanding to oil seeds and to palm oil as it was mentioned by Seth.

But you must understand, if you close your eyes for a second and dream. Look at a map of the world. We have, like five or six countries, which are key exporters of cereals in the world, in wheat, in maize, in

coarse grains, in soybeans, and also in rice. And they are across the world. You have in South America, you have in Asia and some other areas of the world. So, one of these countries is shocked by any of these climate shocks or any other political risk, automatically that will affect the market prices, and that will create volatility. Sometimes the effects could be significant. And that's why we have significant price spikes. The market will try to absorb those shocks. But sometimes policy responses will exacerbate the situation as correctly Seth mentioned. That will create volatility and excessive volatility, which also can create certain levels of a speculation developing, depending how excessive this is. So, and in many cases it is because we don't have full information, we don't know where stocks are, how many stocks we have, and we don't know how good the supplies are. And sometimes the media helps to exacerbate the problem because they bring wrong information to the market, like we have seen lately in some of the media articles being published. And that's what we need to avoid. And that's exactly the role of AMIS that Seth was explaining how we can calm the markets by bringing good information into the markets. So, thank you very much for the great work being done in AMIS with AMIS' Secretariat and let's hope that we can keep pushing forward these great initiatives.

Colleagues, let me now move to David Katruud from WFP. And we want to hear from him how food security and social protection is so important. And how WFP activities right now, are so central, and how volatility is linked to what you do as part of the social protection to tackle food insecurity and hunger. David, the floor is yours.

David Katruud, Programme Director Humanitarian and Development Division, World Food Programme

Thank you so much, Maximo. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, very pleased to join you for this afternoon plenary session.

Over a decade has elapsed since the High-Level Panel of Experts report on social protection for food security was published. Its publication coincided with a profound paradigm shift within WFP itself, and since that time we have broadened our focus from short term emergency oriented social safety net work to leveraging the immense potential of developing and strengthening integrated national social protection systems. The report's recommendations are as relevant today as they were 10 years ago, and they called for nationally owned social protection systems that reach the most vulnerable that are rooted in resilience and that are framed in a rights-based approach.

We've internalized those recommendations over the years as we've sought to operationalize sustainable cross sectoral social protection programs and systems. And, as we've assessed, developed and evaluated country-led social protection interventions. At WFP, we have also committed to making social protection systems nutritionally sensitive with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life. We explicitly define nutrition objectives and measurable indicators in our work, and to the extent possible, we link our work with other critical systems related to health, water and sanitation, education and food.

We are mindful of a growing body of evidence which indicates that when social protection interventions are tailored to address the underlying and immediate causes of malnutrition, these efforts can help people more sustainably meet their essential needs and ultimately help those same populations, manage risks, shocks, and stressors.

Today we have the opportunity to reflect on how our shared agendas have evolved over the past decade, and to set a collective course for the next phase and the road ahead. The challenges are great, though, as we all know, with over three billion people worldwide not able to afford a healthy diet, with 86% of those living in low-income countries and 70% in lower-middle-income countries. As discussed this morning, this is compounded by an intersecting inequality issue, which directly impacts on the ability and affordability of healthy diets. However, we know that adequately designed and implemented social protection systems have the potential to enhance vulnerable populations' ability to meet critical nutrition needs. For example, when coupled with market communication strategies, access to healthy foods and key social services, cash transfers, which were mentioned earlier, can give people an additional purchasing power. They need to afford nutritious foods that would otherwise be out of reach.

We have learned that breaking the cycle of intergenerational transmissions of poverty and vulnerability is possible when social protection targets nutritionally vulnerable populations, and when it allows people to shift just caloric self-sufficiency to consumption of proper, healthy diets.

In the past decade, WFP has actively assisted national governments in integrating comprehensive nutritional packages into social protection schemes, while also seeking to link with other systems of food and health. In respect of food systems, in 2012, in Ethiopia, we worked with the government to introduce a homegrown school feeding program, and under this intervention we supported school feeding, which contributes to multiple outcomes in and of itself, including meeting basic food and nutrition needs, particularly in this case, for refugee and crisis affected populations. But the homegrown aspect allowed us to help vulnerable and food insecure populations, establish climate resilient livelihoods.

As an example of linking social protection schemes with health systems at scale, we have an example in Pakistan, where WFP is to this day supporting a program that is fully funded by the government and works in partnership with several stakeholders, including the private sector, research institutes, and the UN, including WFP. This program strengthens links between social protection and the health sector to ensure greater access to health and nutrition services, particularly aimed at pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under two. A combination of interventions under this scheme, including local production of specialized nutritious foods, conditional cash transfers and social and behavioral change has actually resulted in a 15% reduction in stunting. During the initial stage of this program, which is now contemplating a next phase in which, in the next three years, some 1.7 million safety net participants will hopefully receive an integrated package of food, supplementary cash and nutrition interventions.

On the analytical front, WFP's Fill the Nutrition Gap analyses have been pivotal in generating evidence to inform policy development and create opportunities for integrating nutrition into national social protection schemes. Fill the Nutrient Gap has enabled us to better understand the adequacy of social assistance, as it is not just the size of the transfer that matters, but also the modalities that can often be combined as part of an integrated package to address affordability and nutrient gaps among vulnerable populations. These analyses have allowed for explicit recommendations on how social protection interventions can more effectively deliver affordable nutritious diets at scale, such as through large scale fortification of foods distributed through school feeding programs.

In Peru, for example, the Government has now reached almost four million children through its Haliwarma program with fortified rice thanks to the technical support we've been able to provide from our side.

Chair, I would like to just point out that with approximately half of the world's population still lacking access to social protection and some 735 million people facing chronic hunger, there is still much progress to be made and challenges ahead.

The UN Secretary General is spearheading a common agenda to achieve and accelerate and double down on progress against the Sustainable Development Goals, and in his commitment to leave no one behind, he called for, and I quote "a new era for universal social protection, including health care and basic income security reaching the four billion who are currently unprotected in this era". We need to recognize that food security and nutrition cannot be guaranteed by improving income security alone. Rather, it is essential to foster an enabling environment, dependent on the integration of services, including education, social behavioral change, water and sanitation and food systems.

As part of this effort, WFP is happy to play its role in supporting governments to reach the most vulnerable with effective social protection schemes, particularly those in fragile and humanitarian contexts. This plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security is a unique opportunity to stress the importance of social protection as a key instrument, to realize the Right to Adequate Food for all. And in that light, we would like to join calls for us to work more effectively together, to make social protection a catalyst for multi-sectoral and integrated interventions, which foster resilience through stronger linkages between health, education and food systems, and ultimately reduce food insecurity, and usher in a world free from malnutrition in all its forms. With that I thank you, and I thank you for the extra minute. Thank you very much.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

So, colleagues. Clearly, social protection is one of the key elements of resilience and it's an element that basically is targeting the most vulnerable population. And I think Mr. David Katruud has clearly stated how important it is, but also how much of a gap of coverage we have today and therefore how it is so crucial to learn from countries that have done this and have succeeded and to be able to scale this up to other regions of the world where this is clearly needed.

And the recovery of COVID-19 showed clearly how countries that have good social protection programs were able to recover a lot faster than countries that did not have that in place. So, thank you very much, David, for your presentation.

To conclude our first segment, I have the honor of giving the floor to his Excellency Mohamed Béavogui to address us as a former Prime Minister of Guinea, and former UN Assistant Secretary General and Director General of the African Risk Capacity, ARC. We look forward to hearing from your extensive experience, on the importance of social protection mechanisms in particular, in response to disasters and shocks in our commitment to food security. Excellency, the floor is yours. You have seven minutes, please.

Mohamed Béavogui, Former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director-General of African Risk Capacity

Thank you very much. Thank you, Maximo. Let me start by thanking the CFS Secretariat and the Chair for inviting me to this most important gathering, and then congratulate you, Gabriel, for the fantastic job you have been doing since you chaired this CFS. Thank you very much. So, I would like to make my statements around three points. First of all, look at the world in which we live today. Number two, look at what we have learned so far from the effort to promote social protection, and then, finally, on that basis, what should be done before concluding.

So, of course, the most difficult thing is when you speak last among a panel. Almost everybody has said everything. But so, you will bear with me if there are some repetitions. Now, where are we today in the world poverty front? COVID-19 has reversed 25 years of progress and UN is telling us that if this trend continues, by 2030, we'll still have 575 million people in poor food security. SOFI 2023 it's telling us that we have 783 million people in the world suffering from hunger today. And then looking at the SDGs again here, projection that 600 million people will face hunger by 2030. SDG 2 is at risk definitely.

So, inequalities, inequalities Maximo, we're together in Marrakesh, discussing inequalities. Just one figure: 50% of the population, the bottom poorest 50% of the population share today only 5% of the total wealth in all regions globally. And if you drill down, the ratio is even worse. So, while almost all the countries have introduced new social protection measures in response to the successive recent crisis, many were short-term in nature. As a consequence, a large number of vulnerable people have not yet benefited.

In low-income countries, only 8.5% of children and 7.8% of vulnerable people receive social protection cash benefit in 2020, according to UN. For all of the above, protection is needed, social protection is needed to reduce inequalities and secure food for the poor. What have we learned to date in our effort to promote social protection in the face of high food price and volatility? Poorer households, without effective support, are forced to engage in negative coping strategies. They engage in reducing the number and quality of meals, withdraw children from school, cut back on health expenditure, sell productive assets, thus jeopardizing their future earnings with the risk of perpetuating intergenerational poverty. This is in a context where poor household usually spend a larger share of their income on food compared to richer households. As a consequence, they are disproportionately more affected by high food price. In fact, in emerging and developing economies, 20% of the households spent on average 53% of their income on food - I'm talking here about the poorest straight - while enriched 20% spend only 20%, according to UN.

Also, social protection measures are more effective in mitigating the impact of food price shocks when compared to subsidies. This is FAO studies. For instance, targeted cash transfers in Burkina Faso and Cameroon were more effective in reducing child monetary poverty compared to food prices subsidy

across 2009-2011. Overall countries with stronger social protection, and this was said now, social protection system in place before COVID-19, were better able to provide more wide-reaching, inclusive, adequate, and comprehensive response to the pandemic.

Therefore, unless we strengthen social protection systems, we'll be ill-equipped to respond to the next round of shocks, including high food prices. We don't wish for that.

During my years of establishing the African Risk Capacity, an institution to assist government, prepare and respond to disaster generated crises, it quickly became evident that a well-designed national social protection system is the best way to effectively channel relief to affected populations after a drought. Thank you, WFP for pushing us in that direction, it was very useful.

Climate change is as well posing additional demands on social protection systems. But it can also represent an opportunity for directing climate finance to social protection and evidence shows that social protection can contribute to achieving climate goals interaction.

Third, on the basis of the above learnings, what should be done, ladies and gentlemen? First of all, we should note that over the last 20 years some progress has been made in expanding access to social protection. I have seen it in my own countries.

Let me pay tribute to the Committee of World Food Security for the substantive work undertaken since 2012 - that is more than 10 years ago - that led to the endorsement of policy recommendations on social protection for food security and nutrition. Special thanks to FAO and particularly Marco Knowles and his team for the extensive evidence-based research and analysis to advance social protection as a whole. We need data, we need facts, and you are working for that. Thank you and thank you also for helping me prepare here.

Ladies and gentlemen, recent successive crises have brought to light the critical role of social protection in increasing the resilience of the poor in adverse life situations. It is therefore urgent to strengthen its fundamental role in longer term processes of development and resilience building. We must all advocate for more and better social protection.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I will plead for the CFS to continue its works in three areas. Number one, place social protection at the heart of its policy debates and recommendations for improving food security and nutrition, as well as for achieving inclusive food system transformation and climate action. Number two, work with government and civil society organizations in identifying actions for strengthening social protection system. Advocate for, third, that is three, advocate for expanding the coverage of social protection to rural populations, who are among the poorest and less covered.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we look forward, we must anticipate, innovate, collaborate, and adapt to be ready to face the next wave of challenges, ensuring that the objective for food security and nutrition for all by 2030 is achieved. In the end, it's not just about food or prices or policies. It's about human dignity, wellbeing, and progress for humanity. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you. Thank you very much, Muhammad, for highlighting the importance and recognizing social protection as a development instrument and the importance of reduction of inequalities, and also how insurance, which is part of the African Risk Capacity helps enormously on social protection, especially for the most vulnerable populations. That will allow us to use our resources more efficiently in targeting rather than distorting markets that will create a lot of resources and not targeting the most vulnerable people.

I would like to ask the colleagues on the podium to please take a seat in the front row of the plenary, as we transition to a second segment of this session. Please stay with us, as during the floor interventions we will be pleased to ask you for observations and there may be questions for you. We are now moving to the second part of this event for the panel discussion, so I would like to invite my panelists for the second part to start approaching to the podium, please.

Excellency Doreen Mwamba, Minister of Community and Development of Social Services in Zambia, Excellency Domingo F. Paganiban, Senior Undersecretary, Department of Agricultural of Philippines, Mister Renato, Domith Godhino, Special Advisor to International Affairs, Minister of Social Development and Assistance Family and Fight Against Hunger, Latin America, and the Caribbean in Brazil, Mr. Michael Keller, Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism, and Mrs. Patti Naylor, representative of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanisms, CSIPM. And last, but not least, Mrs. Stefania Leonci, Head of Private Sector Advisory and Implementation in IFAD.

Colleagues, up to now we have been hearing very important topics. One is the importance of having information available, precise information about the availability of stocks, availability of food supplies across time, so that we can reduce any problem of asymmetry of information, and therefore calm markets when they are volatile. AMIS is playing a crucial role on that, and AMIS is pursuing, increasing their tools and capabilities so that we can be ready to cope with the different challenges that we will be facing in the future. Second, we have been hearing how important social protection is, and how important it is to learn from the practices that we have in place today, to be able to move forward and accelerate and expand this to countries that don't have social protection in place. Right now, in all the different types of social protection that we have, and with WFP and FAO and other colleagues, we are working on that together with the World Bank. So that's an area that we need to accelerate and keep learning because it's a way to increase resilience to this excessive volatility, is a way to reduce inequalities, and is a way to use resources in the most efficient way.

Let me now move to the second panel and during this segment we plan to examine the topics of price volatility and social protection again for food security and nutrition more closely. We look forward to our panelists to present their experiences on initiatives and interventions that align with the two sets of CFS policy recommendations.

I know that that of great interest to the session is challenges that have been encountered, the results they achieve, and opportunities that have presented themselves, which would be valuable to draw on our panelists, each in their own area of competence, will also discuss how the design and outcomes of their specific initiatives or interventions contribute to the objectives of the CFS policy recommendations. We call for governments and other stakeholders to implement any or all of the policy recommendations.

So let me welcome again, my new panelist, and I have you for the ones that I have here in person. Let me begin by recalling that today's panel discussion is framed around the following guiding questions.

First, what are the key experiences and best practices in applying the policy recommendations from the Committee on Food Security on Price Volatility and Food Security as well as social protection of food security and nutrition?

How have these recommendations been used to address the underlying causes of food price volatility, and strengthen social protection systems of food security?

Second, how have these two sets of policy recommendations been adapted to meet the specific needs of the population facing food insecurity in different contexts?

Third, what are the most common constraints or prominent constraints and challenges in applying these policy recommendations to enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable populations?

And last, considering the current global food crisis, are these policy recommendations relevant today in achieving food security and nutrition all while advancing towards the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals?

I would like to begin with our first panelists. The problem is that our Zambia Panelist Excellency Mwamba won't be able to join us today. So let me start with the next panelist so that we'll focus on the Asia Pacific region. So, I would like to welcome our Senior Undersecretary, Domingo Panganiban from the Philippines. Excellency, could you please share with us your country's experiences regarding food price volatility and social protection, including the challenges you have encountered and how you have successfully addressed them? The floor is yours.

Domingo F. Panganiban, Senior Under-Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines

Thank you for the invitation to speak in this panel session today.

In December of 2019, the Philippine Government instituted the enhanced partnership against poverty and hunger program, or EPAP, as one of the key strategies in addressing critical concerns and hunger mitigation, food and nutrition insecurity and poverty alleviation. This program involves various partners. In addition to the Department of Social Services and Development, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Grain and Reform of the Philippines. The EPAP is a massive national endeavor that involves vigorous public investments in infrastructure, job creation and emergency assistance services. Its premise, and the combination of both short and long-term initiatives designed to deliver social welfare benefits to the millions of underprivileged Philippine families, and to teach towns and the countryside. It was a timely program that also addressed the COVID-19 pandemic impacts and incomes, food security and nutrition, while strengthening resilience.

The Philippines notes that this program aligns with our obligations under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and several recommendations on social protection for food security and nutrition, such as the following: establishment of inter-ministerial, cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms, including the agriculture sector to ensure that social protection is integrated with broader food security and nutrition programming, the provision of essential assistance in the short term, while simultaneously protecting or building productive assets and infrastructure that support livelihoods and human development in the long term and posturing integrated programs that directly support agricultural livelihoods for the poor, particularly small farmers and small-scale food producers. We have made progress in addressing hunger and food security as seen in the news score of 14.8% in the Global Hunger Index in 2022 from 19% in 2023.

I want to highlight some key strategic measures that President Marcos Junior has been undertaking to address hunger and food security. This includes the provision of institutional feeding programs, credit assistance to support food production, processing, and marketing, capacity building, skills training, productivity improvement of community-based rural-based organizations, linking community-based organizations to markets and an intensified implementation of the national programs on population and family. The Philippine Department of Agriculture's contribution for the first year alone speaks about commitment to increasing sustainable domestic food production, encouraging rural enterprises and widening the access of the poorest of the poor to adequate nutrition and social welfare services. This included the provisions of the following: loans to finance enterprises, popularized rice farmers nationwide, farm inputs, such as high-quality fingerlings and broadstands, distributed to farmers and community organizations, fertilizer and high-yielding seeds, distributed to farmers including that of rice, poultry, hogs, high-quality cattle dispersal, livestock and poultry raisers throughout the islands, irrigation networks and part of market roads built repaired and maintained, mechanized farming units delivered through rural organizations across our islands and motorized vessels and headline boats distributed to fisheries communities throughout the country's coastal areas.

The Department of Agriculture has also established some 7,000 CADIWA stores nationwide to date. These are stores that offer basic necessities like food products at lower prices than regular markets and stores. More CADIWA stores are being planned to be put up to continuously provide safe, nutritious food and affordable prices to improve sectors and create a direct link between farmers and communities.

Furthermore, the government is investing in human capital by providing entrepreneurial training and development projects to rural communities, guiding over a million partners and modern education services and technology. Demonstrations that benefit school gardens and community vegetable gardens as well. Thousands of farmers and a great many beneficiaries are also being trained in proper water resources management and sustainable agriculture under the HIPA initiative. The Government is all providing billions to passes in pre-crop insurance to give farmers sleep from natural disasters, crop diseases and pest infestations, to empower them to open up new technologies and innovations.

President Bongo Marcus also approved emergency cash transfers to low-income families facing elevated food crisis.

The efforts of the Filipino farmers and fisherfolks to their industries, hard work, and public support have resulted in increased production that led to a significant expansion in employment opportunities in rural

areas with almost a million new jobs created in fishing, aquaculture, agriculture, and forestry across the country this year. In line with the CFS's policy recommendations, the FAO also provided support in leveraging the national social production systems to address the major impacts of the pandemic and other shocks, while concurrently strengthening the resilience of individuals, households and communities and institutions to weather shocks through multi-purpose cash distribution and through assistance provided in helping recipients open bank accounts and pay accounts for those who did not have one. The program is also supporting the Government's expanded program against poverty and hunger to the expertish school feeding programs which include homegrown school building and promotion by countrywide production and distribution of iron-fortified rice, forecast-based financing and scaling up partnership with the business sector.

There is the rapport room to utilize the CFS policy recommendations to improve the design and strengthen our National Social Protection program. The Department of Social Welfare is developing two new social technologies, taking into account the CFS policy at building a social protection for anticipatory action and response in emergencies and disasters or be spared program to help build resilience of households through timely and effective response to risk and sharpen the goal to end hunger by 2027, developing policies stop program to decrease the incidence involuntary hunger experienced by low income households through the provision of monetary-based assistance in the form of an electronic benefit transfer card that will be loaded with food credits amounting to about \$50 to purchase a select list of food commodities from partner merchant stores, such as the Department of Agriculture's Cadiwa and Wills.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Junior, who is currently the Agricultural Secretary, took office in June of 2022 on a commitment to create a society, in which no parent has story about hunger in the family, due to drop of opportunities to earn income. The Philippines welcomes part of partnership to support our national social protection program, to achieve zero hunger, alleviate poverty and achieve our food security and nutrition goals. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Excellency Panganiban for his words and stressing the importance of social protection and the different programs that you put in place in the Philippines, especially to respond to the shocks that we were facing. Thank you so much.

I now move to our panelists from Brazil and the special advisor for international affairs, Mr. Renato Godinho, from the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance family and fight against hunger. Welcome, I understand not only Brazil is back, but has a longstanding history of activities in the field of social protection. Mr. Godinho, we are eager to hear about the Government's actions, to enhance social protection mechanisms in the country, and all the innovations that you're bringing up. The floor is yours.

Renato Domith Godinho, Special Advisor for International Affairs, Ministry for Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil

Thank you to our moderator. Thank you, CFS Chair. I'm very happy to participate and contribute to this debate. To me personally there is a special note, as I was here present as in a different role, as member of the permanent delegation of Brazil to CFS when these social protection recommendations were approved back in 2012, and Brazil was one of the countries that back in the CFS Bureau had pushed a lot for those recommendations to be approved. We were glad that they were, and it's quite fitting that 11 years later I'm back here in the session to analyze how implementation of the recommendations is going. So, very happy to be here.

I think the previous keynote speakers and so David, Mohammed, they approached a lot of what should be done around the world regarding social protection, spending access, strengthened implementation of structural long-term policies that are embedded in law, embedded in government programs. So, because even during the crisis of price volatility, for instance, crisis of food production, crisis of food access, it is never the rich who would suffer from hunger. Conversely, even in the best scenarios, even when things

are stable, even in rich countries there is always a share of the society that are destitute for a number of reasons, and they can fall into a vicious circle of perpetuating poverty, perpetuating hunger if there is not a good social protection network.

So, there is a need for bridging more the worlds in the development communities of food security and nutrition and social protection on the other hand. I think David from WFP was very precise on the importance of it. So, joining agriculture, nutrition, health, education, social development, social insurance, this is all key to build this, this whole of Government approach to the issue, and my work here would be easy discussing the implementation for Brazil, because many of the recommendations, as Mr. Torero said in the beginning, Brazil had a long tradition of merging food security and social protection, looking at them as a single universe. So, as I was rereading the recommendations, they seemed even to describe, and speaking to the strength of the Brazilian Government, however, my work would not be so easy, as, unfortunately, in the past few years we had important setbacks.

So, joining political issues, a set of administrations that were intent on jeopardizing some of what was built, reducing budgets, discontinuing, monitoring, distorting the application of some programs. Some were left to linger with less budgets, some were actually discontinued. To that added to the pandemic and its impact. We have had serious setbacks, and, as the Minister of Social Development said on the first day of the plenary, Brazil, unfortunately, has come back to the UN hunger map. And now we are trying to work to remove Brazil from that map again. So, we are resuming work in Brazil on many fronts to address these recommendations and others that we think are very key. So, as the Undersecretary from Philippines mentioned, the disintegrating approach, reconstructing the inter-ministerial chambers and the kind of integrated planning that we had before. It's a similar approach to the one of Philippines.

So, we just launched the Brazil Without Hunger Plan that tracks 80 different actions and programs from 24 ministries under them to see how they are coordinated, how they can integrate with each other best, and bring forth each other, and monitoring a set of 100 indicators over the years to analyze progress.

So, to give you examples of specific programs. Our flagship, the Bolsa Familia cash transfer program, the family allowance. Even if the transfer amount increased during the pandemic, the targeting had deteriorated because of the dynamics of the pandemic and some priorities of prior administrations. And now we are trying to recompose the targeting by providing different families with amounts corresponding to their needs, especially by creating special allowances for every kid in the family and trying to correct distortions in the single registry that had, for instance, families registering as a single member family when actually they had more members, so many distortions that are being recomposed.

So, I think one challenge that is also a great opportunity to put forward all these programs is this single registry technology. So it is very hard work to build this database in Brazil, we have actually almost half of the population, including in the single registry, which is of the poorest to know their realities, and this registry has lost quality over the years, and now every month it is being refined with actively searching for destitute people who don't know their rights and are off the registry and this registry basis dozens of government programs aside from Bolsa Familia, the cash transfer flagship, and I think many other countries have adopted similar registries, and we, as part of these social protection implementations, should work together to expand this coverage and improve the quality of this registry, which is quite key.

So, another example, and there are many others, and I will leave here a few copies of a booklet that we have, the policies of the ministry, although there are many other ministries integrated in this, so there are only a few. But allow me a bit of propaganda for those who want. But another example are the schools. So, I think they are key example, where things converge. So, in schools, meals are provided in public schools that are tied to family farming and purchasing from family farming to be distributed in those school meals.

And now Brazil is also expanding the public school network to allow for full time boarding schools. So, instead of providing one school meal, trying to provide them across the day and keeping kids in a healthier environment, eating healthy, learning, and therefore also addressing other root causes of poverty, liberating, for instance, especially women in their families, to do more work because of lack of childcare institutions, and then to overcome their own poor economic situation. So, I think there would be much more to discuss, but time is short.

I'll end on a related note. Since this is a session about monitoring recommendations, I think this is a very important good exercise, having a session to look at how the monitoring is, but I will take the opportunity also to defend that the CFS should have a more consistent monitoring mechanism, not about pointing fingers at countries not in the name and shame sense, but in the sense of highlighting where support is most needed.

So, take this topic at hand, social protection, which country wouldn't want to have broader social protection, stronger, most well implemented social protection. So, I think that a clear map, if we had an observatory of where we have the best implementation, the broader implementation of where we have the most gaps that would facilitate bridging this gap in social protection coverage that we have heard from previous speakers, so more than half of the world population without any social protection. We should have this observatory not only for this, but for the CFS recommendations, not pointing fingers, but helping, providing this support at country level. And I think this is what we should work together towards. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you. Thank you, Renato and Brazil have collected a series of experiences and learning lessons, and one of the topics that you refer to, which is targeting. And I think that's an extremely important element that we need to really work closely and harder, because the shocks will be different and the uncertainties will be different, the risk will be different.

And what we saw in COVID-19 is that not necessarily the targeting that we had before was needed at that point in time for social protection. So, I think there is a lot of work that needs to be done, and that is linked to spatial analysis of where shocks could happen, so that we can immediately readjust the rosters and using digital technologies as you refer to be able to register people faster and efficiently, so that we can retarget policies and avoid the necessary use of scarce resources, especially in the most vulnerable countries. So, thank you so much for your words, and bringing the experience of Brazil. Now I have the pleasure to hear experience from the representative of the Private Sector and Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanisms of the CFS.

Mr. Michael Keller, Chair of the Private Sector Mechanism, what is the private sector doing to accelerate and to increase resilience, and how we can work to cope better with price volatility, and trying to bring resilience in terms of social protection? The floor is yours.

Michael Keller, Chair, Private Sector Mechanism Representative, International Agri-Food Network

Dear Chairman, dear Maximo, dear Chair of CFS, dear colleagues, your Excellencies. First of all, I would like to thank, also a kind of recognition, that the private sector can sit here. The Private Sector Mechanism I would like to emphasize is a very diverse group. We are here with over a hundred delegates from around the world. But what is more important is this, is from farmers to mid-sized companies, to multinationals, it means the diversity of the agri-food value chain, actors of the private sector are here.

And I would like to emphasize one thing. We know, and I read through also, like you, the recommendations earlier. Again, this recommendation, perhaps, are 10 years old. But all what is in there is absolutely necessary, that we are building on this and that we are fostering one thing, because we all know the challenges, we know them, we do not need to emphasize again the challenge. What we are looking for now is to be concrete, to address that challenges and to collaboratively move forward. It's all about action.

I think it's not more the time to rediscuss somehow recommendations, because it's written there, it's now how we can do this in a collaborative effort and the private sector, I've only said one thing, we are here. We are not the only solution provider, but I think the private sector is also an essential support in delivering results.

Let me take some examples. When you read the volatility recommendation, what is written there? Increase stable investment to strengthen smallholder farmers. Look, where are we today. There is

everywhere we know it, it's about empowering farmers. Again, I'm not saying here the private sector alone is empowering farmers. No, it's collaboratively. But how we can empower farmers, how we can empower women? And it is clear the private sector, in its diversity on a day-to-day basis, is engaged on the ground in supporting governments to empower farmers. I could give here a lot of examples of companies collaborating with extension services in diverse countries worldwide to support farmers. Because one thing is also important. Very often there is a gap between companies, how we can access and how we can support these farmers on the ground. How we can bridge also what we as private sector can provide as solution. This can be simple knowledge transfer.

I just give you one example. Last week we had a wonderful presentation of the SME Accelerator program for women, where we have 50 women mentors and 50 women mentees. Just this transfer of knowledge between mentors and mentees, between women who are engaged in active business activities to transfer the knowledge we could reach not only more than 500,000 farmers and more, but they could really transfer also expertise to the farmers.

The second one is agri-research funding. It's critical. We know we are in a world, where budgets are tight, you know better than us. For the private sector yes, and today, you know, actually research, the private sector is spending today more money than the public sector in research, and we all know the solutions of today will not be enough for tomorrow. That means we need to increase investment, but to increase investment, and Maximo the whole last week it was about investment also during the World Food Forum, how we can bridge this gap of private sector investment, private sector engagement in the countries, also towards the farmers. And I would like to send also one message out here as private sector. We know there's a lot of public research. And you know, I'm Secretary General of the International Seed Federation, CJR is doing magnificent work on breeding programs. How we can think also, just to give you an example to bridge better the take up by farmers of what is done by public research? Because I think nobody knows better potentially also what the farmers are looking for than those like the private sector working on a day-to-day basis with the farmers. I think this is also about bridging.

And I cannot say I need to speak about one topic which is also mentioned of recommendation. It's not the private sector science, it's in the recommendation: trade, we need international trade. And all of us, we know, we had Covid, we have all the challenges we are facing currently. International trade is essential. I give you the example. There is an interdependency on seeds. Seed supply is international. That means what is important, and I think we should look at what is written in the recommendations, what is important we need to foster, we need to strengthen also harmonization, or at least consistency of international rules when it comes up to fight to sanitation measures when it comes up to food safety in a world where we know we are sitting in the same boat. I think that's the call also from the private sector. We need also this multilateral movement and this multilateral agreement.

I think, and I will end here also under social protection, because when you read again the recommendation, one thing is mentioned here, access to market also for farmers or capacity building, I think we need to foster more. And CFS, that's the right place to build these recommendations. But now we should think, yes, we are here monitoring, we should think how we can really implement it, how we can build integrated programs also to increase the access to input of farmers. That's written in the documents, how we can build this. And again, the private sector has certainly, we have a lot of inputs, we have the will to strengthen the collaboration with the diverse range of actors, and we would be ready to move forward in this direction.

Just to give you one example. There's an initiative - because we know fertilizers is an important topic - Sustain Africa, this was a multi stakeholder engagement to maintain also fertilizers float, it means to maintain the access also of farmers to inputs like fertilizers. It means in a world which is changing, which will continue to change, in a world where we know exactly the challenges, there's nothing now more important to be concrete, and the private sector we are doing nothing else. It's only about having concrete impact on the ground to build business cases. Yes, it's about win-win situations. But let us do it together in a sustainable way. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much. So, thank you very much, Michael. You referred to one topic which is extremely important, which is trade, and you know, FAO published in 2019, the SOFA on resilience before the COVID-19, and before the war in Ukraine. And one of the indicators that we use there is capacity of absorption, which is the diversity of trade partners and the diversity of local production and stocks for emergencies, for resilience, for social protection programs. Clearly, trade has to be a continuum, and if the country can produce, that's excellent. But if a country cannot produce, because it's not effective and not efficient, then, of course, trade is central. So accelerating trade and access to markets is also extremely important.

Now let me turn to the representative of the civil society. Mrs. Patti Naylor farms with her husband George, in the USA, State of Iowa, where they grow organic apples, squash, oats, corn, soybeans, and hay. She is a board member of the Pesticide Action Network and Family Farm Defenders and a member of the National Family Farm Coalition and La Via Campesina. I know that the CSIPM has worked on its own monitoring exercise on the use of application of these two sets of policy recommendations. Will you share with us your main messages in terms of the good practices, challenges, and lessons learned? The floor is yours, please.

Patti Naylor, Representative, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism for Relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security

Yes, thank you so much. I'm happy to be here. Yes, I am a farmer in the United States, in the State of Iowa. My husband just finished harvesting organic corn, and when I get back this weekend, I will finish harvesting the apples in our orchard, and I plan to plant a few crops in a fall garden. I am also a coordination committee member of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Mechanism, which has 11 constituencies. I am here to bring my perspective as a farmer and a woman on price volatility, and social protections, and to amplify the voices of social movements, especially those of family farmers and peasants.

It is important to recognize that the negative impacts of price volatility are broad and are evident in rural communities and urban households alike. For this monitoring exercise, we collected evidence from our constituencies and drafted a report that is available on the CSIPM website. I invite you to check it out.

Volatility, indeed, does mean uncertainty and instability and volatility within a food system impacts food security. We have seen, and it should be quite evident by now that volatility is inherent in the global food system because of how basic commodities, including the storable grains and oil seeds, such as wheat and corn, are priced. Regulating the market, and thus how commodities are priced is a key component to creating stable, secure conditions within food systems.

Public policies for strong social protections will always be critical. However, when we regulate the market and reduce the occurrences of price volatility, social protections will be necessary less often, and will be less costly to governments.

We should acknowledge that the governance of agricultural commodity markets in many country contexts have been on a deregulatory trend for decades, and this is a political decision at the national and international levels.

Speculative investments, market hedging, futures contracts, and other profit-seeking behavior primarily by increasingly concentrated corporate and financial interests contribute to market fluctuations, sometimes quite dramatically, which only becomes visible to the public in moments of shock, such as climate catastrophe or war. However, all of this has created the conditions, so that even in times that are considered normal, small-scale food producers are systematically marginalized by this unregulated market, and therefore they are chronically in a state of economic crisis. Price volatility makes it more difficult for farmers to innovate and diversify their farms and production practices. Instead, these market conditions push them to produce as much as they can of the commodity crop, often using extra fertilizer and pesticides, and exploiting the land when prices are high. Ironically, when prices are low, farmers also strive to produce as much as they can to try to reach a minimum income to their livelihood.

This intensity of production in the face of market fluctuations destroys ecosystems and biodiversity and pollutes soil, water, and air. Producers find themselves locked into chemical, intensive, destructive production practices, often bringing more land into monocrop production.

Importantly, a high percentage of these commodity crops are used to feed livestock in confinement facilities and to produce biofuels. The results are that the corporate buyers of raw commodities can take advantage of times when prices are low. And it's the public and the environment that bear the true externalized costs of this kind of production.

Until governments put in place real market regulations of supply management mechanisms and fair price floors and ceilings tied to a public food reserve, the production treadmill will continue to drive down incomes for small scale producers, destroy the environment, and benefit corporate interests.

As CSIPM, for a long time, we have been demanding common sense and evidence-based solutions to the drivers and impacts of price volatility and to advance food sovereignty. We advocate for solutions that include implementing supply management, fair prices and public food reserve policies for agricultural products and reforming the trade regime to serve public interest, not corporate interests.

We also take the system-wide view and advocate for transitioning to agroecology, developing territorial markets, reverse in corporate concentration, enforcing legal instruments to ban financial speculation on land and commodities, and scaling up public institutions and services, combating food insecurity and protecting and ensuring the human right to food. The CFS coordination role must be strengthened, we believe, to coordinate efforts towards the transformation of the food system. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Ms. Naylor, for stressing the importance of stabilizing food prices, supporting social protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable, and ensuring access to food for all, and also for looking for best practices in terms of mechanisms that will help. FAO has invested a lot of work on trying to identify the benefits and the cost of the different mechanisms that can help to minimize excessive volatility, which is when things get problematic.

Now, our last speaker for today's session, Ms. Stephania Lenoci, head of the Private Sector Advisory and Implementation Unit at IFAD. Welcome. We would like to hear from you, IFAD's initiative aimed at mitigating the impact of food price volatility before we move to the floor interventions. Ms. Lenoci, the floor is yours.

Stefania Lenoci, Head of the Private Sector Advisory and Implementation Unit, International Fund for Agricultural Development

Thank you very much, Maximo, for the floor, and it's not easy to be the last speaker of a very long day, but I will try to be brief and concise.

So, addressing food price volatility, and promoting social protection is at the very heart of my institution, IFAD, because we invest in small producers to increase their productivity and income, and this is very important to improve their livelihoods and very much in line with the CFS policy recommendations. We believe that addressing food price volatility and vulnerability requires a comprehensive approach that is based on targeted intervention that address the root causes of these issues.

So, this is why we operate at different levels. So, first value chain development. In East Africa, we work with small producers. We help them establish profitable value chains for coffee, for tea, for spices, and then we link them to reliable markets. We provide them post-harvest support. We provide them also quality control, so they can increase their productivity and income. And this can help also stabilize prices.

We also work on access to finance. And over the years we have developed microcredit programs, targeting small producers and financial instruments like mobile banking, like micro insurance, remittances. And this is very important, because then small producers have more resources to invest in producing

more, producing more diversified food. They also can respond better to price fluctuations, and they can also reduce their dependence on very expensive loans from the informal sector.

We also invest in rural infrastructure. In Bangladesh we have invested a lot in post-harvest infrastructure, both processing centers and storage facilities. And this helps to reduce food waste and loss. Farmers can safely produce their food in storage centers until more profitable market conditions come, and this helps to stabilize prices. We have also developed many risk management tools like weather insurance, forward contracts, so that farmers can better respond to price volatility and also extreme weather events through trainings, information sharing, knowledge management.

And we also play a very important role in helping farmers to organize themselves in cooperatives. And this is very important, because then farmers can really collectively better negotiate better prices for their food, and we can reduce the role of middlemen who often try to exploit small producers, especially when there are in times of price fluctuations.

But, and here I think that Michael will like to hear that, we will strengthen our work with the private sector. In 2021, we launched the private sector financing program, which is the program that I lead in IFAD. So, the program catalyzes direct private sector investments in IFAD target groups, small producers in rural areas of developing countries.

And how does the program work? We provide catalytic financial instruments that equity and risk mitigation and also de-risking tools to agri-SMEs and also financial institutions that work with the rural poor to bridge the financing gap that small producers face, and the program has been quite successful in providing counter-cyclical finance during the Covid crisis and now, during the Ukraine crisis, when access to finance for small producers is even more constrained than usual.

And I want to finish by giving an example of what this program means. So, in Nigeria we have invested in an agri-SME, which is called Babangona. Babangona, was created by two young dynamic Nigerian entrepreneurs, really committed to improving the livelihoods of small producers and especially young people in rural areas affected by political and economic instability, especially in the North, that is affected by Boko Haram. And what does this company do is that they provide small farmers with a package of credit, inputs, market services, and training so they can increase their profitability and their productivity. And they also encourage them to take up technological tools and also climate. And so Babangona was created thanks to support in the forms of grants from donors and foundations, but got to a stage where to go to the next level they really needed private sector capital. So, this is where, IFAD additionality came into the picture. We were the first senior lenders to this company, and by entering the first senior debt tranche we have encouraged other investors to come in and invest. So, we really look forward to exploring even new ways, more ways to engage with the private sector, to have this type of results. Thank you very much.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you. Thank you very much to IFAD for the ideas and the innovations that they are bringing. Colleagues, we finish in the second panel and thank you to all my panelists for looking at two recommendations that came from the CFS in 2011 and 2012 plenaries. The first recommendation was on price volatility and food security endorsed in 2011, and the second recommendation was on Policy Recommendations on social protection for food security and nutrition endorsed in 2012.

As you can see from all the panelists, there is significant challenges ahead and significant space to keep improving and to keep working on this topic. But we have to learn from each other, and we have to keep alive these recommendations and trying to bring best practices so that countries can accelerate the process that is needed.

So now, what we will do is, we will open for interventions from the floor. So, please, if you have an intervention that you want to do, press the button that is needed, and we will be calling you one by one.

Spain, you have the floor.

Spain

Distinguished Chair, I would like to address the plenary on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. Iceland, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia and San Marino align themselves with this statement. We wish to thank the CFS Secretariat for this apt analysis of the contributions received on the state of implementation of the recommendations and action points prepared with the Advisory Group. We would like to congratulate you for the excellent work done. We wish to thank the CFS for this exercise, which is very important and strategic for measuring the effectiveness of CFS tools in the field.

It confirmed the relevance of both CFS tools, the Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and on Social Protection and their importance in addressing the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in light of the highly volatile environmental and geopolitical context the world is facing. The global food price crisis, which was compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and severely exacerbated by Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, is hindering people's ability to afford a healthy diet and increasing the number of people facing hunger and malnutrition.

Social protection policies and programs for food security and nutrition, including the labor rights of food system workers, especially small-scale and family farmers, need to be integrated within food systems transformation plans. The aim would be to increase the affordability of healthy diets and ensure coordinated response to a multiplicity of intersecting crises.

Regarding the Recommendations on Price Volatility, we think that they are still relevant and accurate, in particular we must continue working to increase transparency. We also need to avoid export restrictions. We acknowledge that more than a decade after the endorsement of both Policy Recommendations, the world has changed. There has been a regression in terms of social and economic rights as presented by the Secretariat today and we must react. The EU welcomes the recommendations for adaptation to the new volatile environment and geopolitical context. We look forward to further discussing these recommendations in the months to come. Thank you, Chair.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much. Now, France.

France

Thank you, Chair. France associates itself with the statement made by Spain on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States and would like to add the following in its national capacity. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has led to rampant inflation in food prices leading to dramatic exacerbation in global food insecurity. With the greatest impact on the poorest populations. The CFS Recommendations on Price Volatility adopted in 2011 are extremely valuable in this context, especially the recommendations calling for greater transparency and those calling on countries to try to address export restrictions. These recommendations were very useful and have led to a great impact.

Multiple actions have been implemented, especially the establishment of AMIS and the rapid response forum. These two tools have shown their effectiveness in increasing the transparency of food markets, promoting political dialogue, and facilitating decision-making in response to rising commodity prices. France supports AMIS and welcomes the capacity and initiative to change depending on new arising challenges, especially by recently integrating the issue of fertilizer in its analysis. We call upon all AMIS participants to regularly provide data, to strengthen the quality of the work and the effectiveness of collective action. Finally, we also call upon countries to facilitate the flow of commodities to avoid export restrictions in order to fight price volatility. The EU and its Member States are working on this, for example as part of the Solidarity Lanes Initiative. Thank you very much.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you, France. Let me pass the floor now to United States of America.

United States of America

Thank you, Chair, and thank you to our panelists for the presentations. This is a timely discussion. We see the risks that farmers face every day from natural disasters, uncertain markets, and price volatility.

We talk about the three Cs, climate change, Covid, and conflict. And we have unfortunately seen over the past year and a half the devastating impacts of one country using food as a weapon of war, with Russia, terminating its participation in the Black Sea Grain initiative and attacking Ukraine's vital agricultural and port infrastructure.

Looking back to the 2011 Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility, we can see that many of these recommendations were implemented over the past few years, supporting AMIS, avoiding trade restrictions, and providing support for farmers. But we must do more, and we still need countries to commit to more transparency in sharing trade and production information.

One area to highlight on price volatility is agricultural production. We are working with many countries here today and with FAO on increasing technology and access to technology and innovation. We are investing in agricultural research that is critical to meet the anticipated 50% increase in agricultural production required to provide sufficient food to the world's growing population by 2050. Emerging technologies to develop crops that better tolerate drought, toxicity, disease, pests, and salinity are essential to meet this goal.

Enhancing production alone is not sufficient to address future food needs. Trade plays a fundamental role in food security by making diverse foods more affordable and available. Open global markets allow food to move from food surplus regions to food deficit regions, which stabilizes markets by reducing the risk of food scarcity in domestic markets and mitigating food price volatility in both domestic and global markets.

The United States looks forward to the work of the newly formed CFS open ended working group established in the MYPoW. We expect that products, like the Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and on Social Protection, will gain further traction across the UN system, as many of the recommendations they promote are timeless and applicable to addressing current challenges. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, U.S.A. Let me now pass the floor to Argentina.

Argentina

Thank you, Chair, for giving me the floor. We would like to begin by recognizing the work of the Secretariat in the preparation and presentation of the documents that provide the context for this debate, especially to the Chair of AMIS, Mr. Meyer. We would like to recognize the importance of the panel for the debate.

On the SOFI report, I would like to say it is clear that we are facing a severe situation, where food insecurity and malnutrition continue to rise, especially in developing countries. The image of the perfect storm is used to describe the challenges we face as an international community. We believe that this challenging landscape calls on us as multilateral actors to find long-term solutions that will allow us not only to overcome this complex situation but lay the groundwork to engender resilience and lasting prevention mechanisms. In this context, the Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and food security contribute in part to the understanding and potential resolution of current problems. In part, I am saying, because the circumstances we face today are different to those that led to the negotiation of this document. The economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the impact of monetary expansion on

developed countries, the phenomenal burden of debt, non-tariff barriers to trade, climate change and artificial disruptions to global value chains, to name but a few, are the main catalysts that have triggered the current food insecurity crisis and extreme volatility of food prices.

On this point, I would like to briefly dwell on this. Price volatility on a market that clearly focuses on supply and demand is natural and predictable, therefore something that can be managed. Now, when price fluctuations are subject to disruptions, be they internal or external, that lead to extreme fluctuations in values and stocks, this leads to price crises and supply scarcity. This is the logic behind problems in supplies at all levels.

We feel it is important that we stress the work done by the Chief Economist of FAO, Maximo Torrero, to address food prices worldwide, for instance the contribution of FAO's price index and AMIS have been crucial in reducing anxiety on input and food markets, providing frameworks for transparency and predictability on futures, grain stocks and behavior in supply chains.

Also, the Black Sea Grain Initiative, that many actors took part in, also took some pressure off supply expectations. We truly hope that those who took part, will find a way to agree and also lend continuity to that initiative. And also, in any case, I will conclude, Chair, it will just take a few more seconds. As we have said before, extreme price volatility stems from multiple factors, climate variability, climate change and international trade restrictions. Again, if we remove technical barriers to trade, this all needs to be discussed in the multilateral community, which in a way is above the remit of this Committee. I would like to again recognize the partial contribution of these policy recommendations and underline that we need to find lasting solutions that will help us redress the historical causes that have led to extreme price volatility, so that together we can achieve zero hunger.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you, Argentina. Angola has the floor.

Angola

Thank you, Chair. Allow me to begin by congratulating you and congratulating the CFS, because this is a very important issue for our agenda. Our economies are fragile, and we are in a difficult situation, because the crisis is very clear. On the one hand, on production stability and food security.

Here we would like to thank FAO and IFAD, because IFAD has launched a program that should serve as a model for African countries such as Angola. IFAD has supported small producers, small farmers, in terms of financing irrigation and community education. Distinguished Chair, we need to accelerate our work on this, and financing could be an important instrument for overcoming challenges.

Distinguished Chair, Angola has a six-pillar policy: food availability, capacity, economic diversification, nutrition protection, investment, inclusion and stability. And this serves as a framework for public private partnerships that allow us to ensure food security, while also accounting for social protection, which is so important.

So, what do we need in Angola? We need not just educational assistance, but we need technological education systems. Here at FAO, the mechanization program has really highlighted the importance of mechanization for African countries. So technological education, the creation of networks in society, training and education centers, but also protection and inclusion of women, children and the disabled. Angola is a country with the largest number of disabled people in the world, because of so many years of conflict. So, we need programs with this kind of focus, local development. We also need innovation. We can develop solutions of course, but thanks to entrepreneurship. Without entrepreneurship, we cannot have innovation. So, we also need a structuring of local markets. We have informal markets in Africa. And this is very difficult when it comes to prices. So, we also need to anticipate risk in order to be able to respond to events that arise. And prices are set through pricing mechanisms that are related to inflation. So, we need favorable conditions for this. Thank you very much, Chair. And I would like to also thank the private sector, for setting such an example for us.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you, Angola. Now Mozambique, on behalf of the African Regional Group.

Mozambique

Thank you, Mr. Chair, for giving us the floor. The Africa Regional Group statement is made by Mozambique on behalf of South Africa, Algeria, and Republic of Congo.

We note that Africa was the most represented region that submitted contributions to the Secretariat in compiling their analysis, indicating the commitment of Africa to consider and apply as applicable these policy recommendations.

The Africa Regional Group was supportive of the adoption of these policy recommendations and wishes to highlight that within Africa the food supply chain and associated price volatility are influenced by conflict, climate change and natural disasters, such as droughts and floods as well as plants and animal diseases. Also, rising inflation, infrastructure and market access challenges and lingering effects of COVID-19 continue to have an impact on food affordability and accessibility due to increasing price and rising poverty, thereby increasing the need for social protection programs.

There is a need to sustain capacity building programs at national and regional levels related to food market systems, including the collection analysis, reporting and dissemination of data, and early warning stages. In this context, the African Risk Capacity agency was established to help African Government to improve their capacity, to better plan, prepare and respond to natural disasters triggered by extreme weather events as well as outbreaks and epidemics.

The African Union placed a focus in 2022 on nutrition, highlighted that systemic change is needed to improve nutrition. In this context the need was identified to ensure that nutrition is integrated into resilience and strong health systems through universal health coverage as well as healthy, inclusive, sustainable and environmental and climate change-sensitive food system, sanitation system, inclusive of drinking water supply, effective social protection system, ensuring that no one is left behind, including the poorest and the most nutritional vulnerable and investment in nutrition education for all.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, with this comment, the Africa Regional Group take notes for the information contained in document CFS/23/51info.19. I thank you, Mr. Chair, for this opportunity.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Mozambique. The floor is now for Thailand.

Thailand

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thailand expresses its gratitude to the Committee on World Food Security for monitoring CFS policy recommendations on critical issues, such as price volatility and social protection concerning food security and nutrition. These issues are of significant concerns to us. We would like to briefly share with you some of our efforts and commitment to addressing price volatility in line with CFS policy recommendations.

Thailand is actively developing strategies to assist our people when prices fluctuate significantly. We have implemented plans to provide support to our groups in Thailand with the goals of ensuring that everyone in our nation can access the food they need. Thailand strengthened the work on school lunch programs and initiated in particular the Sustainable Urban Agricultural Development Project with the aim to expand more than from land and raise productivity nationwide, while also enhancing resilience and self-sufficiency in both urban and rural areas.

Urban agriculture has proved to be of increasing importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, and these times of economic uncertainty, market monitoring and information sharing are also vital to tackle excess price volatility.

Thailand actively participates in the agricultural market information system to make accurate and timely information about the availability of rice and other agricultural products readily accessible to all countries, thereby contributing to the mitigation of price volatility. In conclusion, Thailand is dedicated to managing price volatility and strengthen social protection for food security and nutrition, and we look forward to working and sharing experiences with you all. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Thailand. The floor is now given to the Dominican Republic.

Dominican Republic

Thank you very much, Chair. We would like to express thanks for the preparation and presentation of the review of the use and applications of CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Food Security and Social Protection in favor of FSN. We welcome the conclusions therein as well as the recommendations that promote a holistic, collaborative approach in addressing food and agriculture related challenges at global level. The empowerment of stakeholders, including family farmers and adapting policies to different contexts are the key pillars to making policies effective. Last, we welcome the recommendation made to the Committee and stakeholders that efforts be intensified to promote and advocate for these Policy Recommendations at all levels. This will contribute the realization of the right to adequate food and the realization of food security across the world. Thank you, Chair.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you. Now the floor is for Zambia.

Zambia

Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for giving us the floor on this agenda item. Zambia wishes to align itself to the statement delivered by Mozambique on behalf of the African Group. Zambia further, as I am taking the floor for the first time, I just wish to mention that Zambia congratulates our sister country, South Africa on assuming the chair of this august committee. Allow me also to commend you, Chair for the sterling work in the stewardship of the CFS.

Chairperson, I wish to acknowledge the work and efforts made by CFS in coming up with Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection for food security and nutrition, which were endorsed by CFS 37 in 2011 and CFS 39 in 2012, respectively. We are encouraged that the policy recommendations have provided the necessary tools to Member States that enable them to adapt to their local contexts. We believe that this is exactly what the CFS policy recommendations are designed to achieve.

In taking stock of the two sets of policy recommendations, I wish to state that Zambia has made efforts to curb the unexpected increases in prices on household food security and household income by implementing social protection programs such as a food security pack. This program provides support to poor and vulnerable but viable farming households with agricultural inputs and livelihood skills. This initiative has enabled vulnerable farmers improve their productivity, nutrition, food security and incomes for self-sustainability and poverty reduction.

The Zambian government is also implementing the cash plus agenda by linking beneficiaries of social cash transfer to other social protection programs and services. This approach allows beneficiaries to

access additional support through programs such as livelihood schemes and skills development. Zambia is fully committed to working with the Committee on Food Security. We recognize its key role in fostering the transformation towards sustainable agriculture and food systems that help to tackle rising global challenges related to hunger and all forms of malnutrition and the interrelated factors of poverty and inequality, environmental degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Chairperson, we would therefore wish to add our voice in supporting the CFS Policy Recommendations on Price Volatility and Social Protection for food security, and nutrition.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

I thank you. Thank you very much, Zambia. And with that, that was the last intervention from the floor. So, colleagues, let me try to bring some elements that we have discussed. It will be too difficult to summarize all what we have learned. Oh, sorry! There are two more interventions. Russian Federation. Okay, so Russian Federation, please. The floor is yours.

Russian Federation

Thank you very much, Chief Economist. I would like to exercise my right of reply with respect to the accusations made by the delegation of Spain, representing the EU, France, and the United States. The Russian Federation categorically rejects these accusations made of us, saying that we supposedly provoked hunger and weaponized hunger. The difficult situation on food markets is caused due to the irresponsible actions of financial, economic and energy sectors of Western countries. The main impact on world markets was caused by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as low food supplies and unfavorable climate conditions. In reality, the situation is being exacerbated by unprecedented sanctions policy of Western countries. The terrible treatment of Russia, which is so dangerous for the global food sector, the economic pressure measures against our country have led to an imbalance in international food markets and caused high price volatility for example. And lastly, with respect to the Black Sea Initiative, Russia was fully implementing its obligations as part of the Black Sea Initiative. But, when it comes to helping countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the initiative turned completely from a humanitarian into a commercial initiative, with respect to these countries. And together with an impact on fertilizer, on world markets. Not one of the issues that could have eliminated obstacles for agricultural exports from Russia were resolved. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you, Russian Federation. Now the floor is for Cameroon.

Cameroon

Thank you, Maximo, and thank you to all the panelists. Chair, at the outset, let me say that we associate ourselves with the statement presented by Mozambique on behalf of Africa, and seriously, we share the same issues that were highlighted by Angola and Zambia, because we ourselves we find us in the same position. Well, when these two Policy Recommendations were adopted, that is dating back to 2011 and 2012, at the early age of the CFS reform, Chair, we were not thinking that we will be again today at a level where, after examining food price volatility and the impact into food security and later on the issue of social protection, we can today be discussing the link between the two.

Chair, it's not obvious that we could take the social protection as the panacea to resolve the issue of price volatility. That cannot be. But I would like, first of all, I would like what our friend Mohammed Beauvugoi said earlier when he was classifying the richest people in the world, and said, the ratio between the richest and the rest of the world. This is a constant issue that we have to address. Social protection could be, from our perspective, an instrument that may help to combat price volatility, that we have to think

again, other things that are of interest. Those richest people in the world, is it not about time for those people to share their riches? That's the question now. Is too much for a few to get all while the rest, the bulk rest have nothing. I don't know. I was again thinking about this book on the bottom billion. But that's not the fact that the real essence here. But the real essence is what to do to make sure that the world's riches is proportionately shared among all human beings. It's a matter of social well-being of everybody. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Cameroon. Now the floor is for UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I would like to thank the panelists. Global food circumstances directly and disproportionately affect indigenous peoples, both in terms of access to food and because many solutions to date have been translated into pressure and other measures that have placed pressures on our soils and seeds, which make indigenous peoples extremely vulnerable, forcing them to be displaced to a large extent. Therefore, recognizing their food systems in their entirety is an urgent need worldwide. This is one of the issues discussed last week during the indigenous youth forum in the Samis' tents set up here in FAO. If I may Chair, I would like to give the floor to the youth delegates so that they themselves can give this message,

We, the indigenous youth, who hail from the seven sociocultural regions of the world represent 3% of the world's population, which is almost half of the total indigenous population. We are among the first to experience and most affected by the impacts of the damage inflicted on our traditional territories. The effects of climate change are felt in how the environment communicates to us.

We want to make the following recommendations. The establishment of dedicated funds to support and promote innovation and projects that capture the views of indigenous youth, and which should be directly accessible to indigenous peoples. The recognition of indigenous people's food knowledge systems contribute to healthy and nutritional diets and the world's sustainability. There is a need to establish legal mechanisms to protect the heritage and collective memory of indigenous peoples. This includes the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security to which we recommend co-creating a special report on indigenous peoples food and knowledge systems and their contribution to food security, while emphasizing the role of youth.

Therefore, we invite you to read our 2023 Rome Declaration on safeguarding future generations in times of food, social and ecological crisis, which we will hand out to the CFS.

We can only be the seeds of change and transformation of food systems if the world listens to the messages carried by indigenous youth. We can only achieve peace when there is no hunger and food insecurity. Thank you.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you. Let me pass the floor to the last speaker, Congo.

Congo

Thank you, Chair. I would like to thank Mr. Ferrero for your organization of the work, and I would also like to congratulate Madam Ambassador of South Africa on her brilliant election to the chairmanship of the CFS.

We would like to align ourselves with the statement made by Mozambique on behalf of the Africa Group and we would like to make the following statement in our national capacity. We would like to note that over a decade after the adoption of the Recommendations on Price Volatility and food security as well as Social Protection, the changes that have happened, very few stakeholders have actually participated in this process and the report says that only 46 contributions were made. And this is a problem in terms of implementation, in terms of their effective implementation of the CFS recommendations. If we find that the recommendations are an outcome, we need an outcome of the outcome. In other words, we need to effectively implement the recommendations. In our national capacity, we would like to say that in the period following Covid-19, my country's government has established a social aid program for 10,000 households, which received monetary transfers in order to support them and address the shock in food prices. So, I would like to thank you for your help, and we would like to align ourselves with the statements made by others on this subject.

Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Thank you very much, Congo. Okay, so, dear colleagues, now we come to an end of these two excellent panels. Let me give some bullet points of things that at least I got as a Chair from these panels.

First of all, the system of the agri-food system that we are operating will be facing significant risks and uncertainties. And this will be accelerated in the following years, together with water stress and, of course, the level of inequalities that we have.

We are also crossing six of the nine planetary boundaries, which will put us in what I called a dark zone, because we are not prepared for that exponential increase of these type of shocks, and this will affect, of course, all of us, and especially will affect the most vulnerable, will affect our indigenous people, their biodiversity and the way they work.

So clearly, we need to be prepared for that. And that is one of the root causes behind volatility and excessive volatility, as it was mentioned by Argentina. When AMIS was created in the food crisis in 2011 in Paris G20, it was to tackle issues of excessive volatility - because volatility is common, creates liquidity - excessive volatility is where the problems become more serious.

But outside of the exogenous shocks that will come, and the frequency will increase, we also have drivers that come from the market structure that we operate. And the agri-food system has a very concentrated market structure, especially on the export markets of cereals and on the input markets. And in the last years we have been feeling those consequences of how concentrated there were. So, we need to increase our portfolio of production in the world.

And we need to promote sustainable agriculture to accelerate the process so that we have bigger key players to supply food to the world so that we can reduce that concentration. And that's an instructional solution to the structural drivers that we have behind excessive volatility. So marketed structure is something that we need to look at very carefully both in the output markets, but also in the input markets.

Now, social protection is not to resolve the causes of volatility, but social protection is to help cope with volatility, excessive volatility, social protection comes to help the most vulnerable given the inequalities they face and given that if you are so vulnerable you don't have assets, and therefore your capacity to cope is more difficult and that's where we need to improve and to keep scaling up social protection. So, it's a major component of resilience, it is a major component to help the most vulnerable to cope with these situations.

We have also seen other tools to help to do that. The Agricultural Market Information System that was presented by the Chair of the Agricultural Market Information System that has committed to keep improving and accelerating and increasing its capacities and its coverage, so that we can cope to this exponential increase, potential exponential increase, of what we are observing, but also to help to assure transparency in the markets.

And here is where we need more commitments from countries to keep providing the information so that AMIS gets stronger every day. AMIS won't work well if we don't have the information from countries on

the stocks and the food supplies, so that we can clearly document those and make that to accelerate the process of transparency in the markets. There are other tools more at the regional level, like the ARC, which is helping African countries to cope with these natural disasters and the frequency of these shocks, and, of course, of volatility. And we need to learn from those and also scale them up and try to see how we can scale them up to other areas similar, to the social protection programs. Even though we have 50% of the population of the vulnerable population that don't have access to that.

We also need to see how the financing mechanisms are in place, how we can create mechanisms of financing that will help, like the indigenous people and other segments of the population that are facing these shocks, like SIDS, for example, which will be facing significant climatic shocks, and are significantly vulnerable to those climatic shocks.

Colleagues, social protection has shown to work, very close to us since COVID-19. We saw how well it worked in the countries that have the systems in place. Those are the countries that we have shown in the latest SOFI that they have been able to reduce and recover partially of the shock of COVID-19. So, we need to learn from those. Of course, every country will have to adapt their system to their needs, but clearly, we have to learn from the practices that are in place.

But we also need to improve targeting as it was mentioned, and we also need to make it prepare for climate shocks, how we can use social protection and link that to the climate change and the climate frequency of shocks that we have.

But structurally we also have the problem of inequalities. And some of the countries mentioned the importance of infrastructure. And infrastructure investments are one of the ways in which we know, and we have evidence that inequalities can be reduced and that implies across the board, not only with roads, the storage facilities, cooling facilities, logistics for the mobility of food, but also on human capital and education. That's the way that we can reduce inequalities and can make us more resilient to these types of shocks. So, we need to take very seriously the issue of inequalities, which is a very complex issue.

It is not only levels of poverty, extreme poverty, but also the differences in the distribution. And that's what we need to cope with.

And we also need to learn, and from the policies that has been implemented in the past, the ones that has worked and the one that has not. The last thing that we want is to implement policies that will create distortions and will exacerbate even more problems. And we have a role to bring that up, AMIS has a role to bring that up in the case of policies related to markets and transparency of markets.

So, colleagues, let me finish by saying that these two policies that we were looking at, in terms of the CFS, are of extreme importance. And I hope the CFS will continue to empower them and will continue to track how countries are using them. And we can keep learning and also accelerating the process. And we can share best practice in the world. So, thank you so much, and please join me in thanking the panel, the two panels for their excellent speeches.

Chairperson

Thank you very much, Maximo, thank you for your excellent moderation skills as always. I would once again like to thank both panels, all the panelists from this panel and the previous one. Unfortunately, the Minister of Community Development and Social Services of Zambia, Her Excellency Doreen Mwamba was not able to take part and Valerie Guanieri could also not attend due to health reasons. It was therefore an imbalance in the gender representation of this session. We hope they both feel better soon. I would like to briefly conclude not only by thanking the panelists, but also by recognizing that both panels were extremely rich. As many panelists have said, the aspects that we were dealing with some 10 years ago are not just still relevant now, but also in terms of the agreements we've come to as Policy Recommendations here at the CFS continue to be relevant despite all the years that have gone by.

It's been a real pleasure, an enriching one, to hear about the detailed experiences of Brazil and the Philippines and all the other members who took the floor to contribute to the discussion, due to the different approaches and proposals from the different contexts. I would just like to thank Brazil and the other delegates, who have made forward-looking proposals for the Committee's work as to how to shift

our social protection approach and the excellent proposals to focus on the implementation of the recommendations of the CFS also in light of our workstreams on advancing and enhancing the impact we have. I would like to thank the CSIPM and the PSM as always for their thoughts and views and for complimenting public authorities' visions. And I would like to ask for a big round of applause for the panelists. Let's hear it for the panelists and then we'll continue with internal issues.